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Identical letters dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft against Iraq, inasmuch as in the period from 8 to 15 May 2000 they carried out 202 sorties, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 34 from Kuwait and 78 from Turkey. The Minister affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage caused by such aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 19 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 202 sorties in the period from 8 to 15 May 2000, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 34 from Kuwait and 78 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 78 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1050 hours on 9 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Irbil and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1040 hours on 10 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Zakho, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1050 hours on 11 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Baibo, Aqrah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1047 hours on 12 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho, Irbil, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 124 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1220 hours on 8 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control

aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Jalibah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Diwaniyah, Rumaythah, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Rifa'i, Artawi, Qurnah and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1925 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1600 hours on 11 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Salman, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Shatrah, Diwaniyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Najaf, Taqtaqanah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1700 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2100 hours on 12 May 2000, United States and British F-15 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Artawi, Basrah, Diwaniyah and Hayy areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2210 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 2030 hours on 13 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Amarah, Basrah, Hayy, Najaf and Taqtaqanah areas and attacked civilian and services-related installations, wounding nine civilians. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 2120 hours on 14 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Hashimiyah, Qal'at Salih, Ashbajah, Jalibah, Artawi, Salman, Amarah, Basrah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Qurnah, Najaf and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2230 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted

destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their attacks and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq